

Finance Board Meeting Minutes: March 24th, 2014

Attendees: *George McCormack, Bill Previdi, George Georgountzos, Rachel Meredith-Warren, Russ Wilson, Dava Kilbride, Devon Manchester, Caroline Colarusso, Julie Desimone, Ben Caggiano*

Mr. *Georgountzos* opened the meeting at 7:35 PM

Anthony Wilson of the Greenway was invited to present his warrant articles, 12 and 13 respectively. The content of the articles revolve around the 7 property owners/lessors that currently abut the Greenway designated land. In these 7 cases the abutters have encroached onto Greenway land. Article 13, is to see if the town will extend a short term lease with the abutters or to have them vacate the land. Mr. A. Wilson indicated his board was split, there is income that could be used to enhance the Greenway and under current conditions the town has collected roughly \$55,000 from these 7 property owners. The article presents only a short term lease by the town but there is a further debate looming around long term leases. Russ Wilson commented that the Greenway had had problems in the past and it may be wise to not extend the leases because it may take time to get the businesses off of them. Devon Manchester cautioned that the businesses should be given due warning. Mr. Wilson countered that that businesses knew for many years.

Ms. Kilbride questioned whether there was potential litigation with the 7 abutters. Mr. A. Wilson informed her that he did not see that being a concern but that it was impossible to predict with certainty. Mr. McCormack asked if the town would have the right to select specific abutters who could be given the right to lease in a long term scenario. Mr. A. Wilson was not sure and mentioned that the YMCA was a concern because of the children in the parking lot that would need to be smaller if the lease was not extended. Ms. Meredith-Warren stated that she would like maps and that was really important to understand this article. Mr. Wilson echoed that same point and Mr. A. Wilson said he would have them for town meeting.

Mr. Georgountzos recommended the board discuss further and vote at a later time.

Mr. Wilson brought up the open meeting law and wanted to get a matrix that showed exactly what the law meant for the board. Mr. Previdi pointed out that Town Counsel visited the board last year and each member came away with a different opinion of what he presented. Mr. Georgountzos agreed and would look into it.

The board then moved to the warrant articles, the plan to take a vote on some of the annual and non-contentious ones.

Article 1, to maintain the number of year appointments and elections of town officers. Mr. Manchester recommended favorable action, Ms Kilbride seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Article 2. to choose town officers for the ensuing year. Mr. Manchester recommended favorable action, Ms Kilbride seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Article 3. to hear reports of town officers and committees. Mr. Manchester recommended favorable action, Ms Kilbride seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Article 4. to fix town salaries. Mr. Manchester recommended favorable action, Ms Kilbride seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Article 9. to reauthorize the Council on Aging's revolving fund to pay for facilities expenses at the senior center, Ms. Meredith-Warren recommended, Mr. Manchester seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Article 10. to reauthorize the Council on Aging's revolving fund to pay for outings and transportation, Ms. Meredith-Warren recommended, Mr. Manchester seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Article 19. to authorize revolving fund for Fire Dept. Mr. Manchester recommended favorable action, Mr. Previdi seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Article 20. to authorize the payment of prior years invoices. Mr. Wilson recommended favorable action, Mr. Manchester seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Article 22. to authorize the BOH revolving account not to exceed \$50,000. Mr. Wilson recommended favorable action, Mr. Manchester seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The remaining articles and those skipped were to be voted on at a later meeting when key department heads would be available for further insight.

Mr. Georgountzos stated that an audit subcommittee was brought up to him by member Mr. Caggiano. Mr. Georgountzos sought to nominate two members for the audit subcommittee and Mr. Caggiano and Mr. McCormack were selected.

Ms. Meredith-Warren said it was important to provide more information on the FAB's website, such as the mission statement, contact information, and by laws. Mr. McCormack mentioned that he was collecting biography's to update the site and he had confirmed it was okay with the Town Clerk. Mr. Manchester made a motion to include biographies and update content, it was unanimously voted in favor of.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM

Respectfully,

George McCormack